(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) what were the major areas of difference between Government and the Opposition parties on this issue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA): (a) to (d) The objective of the all party meeting convened on 22nd March, 2003 was to maintain the tradition of consultations with political parties on important international issues. The opportunity was utilized to elicit the views of different political parties and to inform them of Government's policy relating to the evolving situation in Iraq.

Release of ISI agents by America

†3031. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHTRIYA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whehter Government are aware that America has allowed a number of ISI agent who were apprehended by America, during the course of war in the name of terrorism in Afghanistan to go to Pakistan by releasing them and thousands of Al-Qaida terrorists have also accompanied them who later scattered in whole Pakistan and Jammu and Kashmir; and

(b) if so, the details of the action Government have taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Government has seen reports and has made its own assessment in this regard.

(b) Government has conveyed to the international community, including the United States, its strong concerns about the relocation of Al-Qaida terrorists, Taliban functionaries and their Pakistani supporters from Afghanistan to Pakistan, which can undermine the war against terrorism, including the cross-border terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.